

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/035,767	LORENZ ET AL.
	Examiner Toan C To	Art Unit 3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on March 8, 2004.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 10-16.
3.  The drawings filed on 12-26-2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 12/29/03
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

Toan To  
Patent Examiner

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-8, and 10-16 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to independent claim 1, neither WO 97/34783 nor other art of record discloses or suggest a gas bag restraining device particularly comprising: a module cover for closing a ring shaped outlet opening of the gas bag module, the module cover having a central hole covered by a stationary cap and an edge defining the central hole; a holding connection provided between the edge and stationary cap; wherein the module cover having an end wall and a side wall, the end wall being claimed at a transition between the end wall and the side wall. These structures in combination with other structures as recited in claim 1 define over prior art of record.

With respect to independent claim 12, neither WO 97/34783 nor other art of record discloses or suggest a gas bag restraining device particularly comprising: a module cover for closing a ring shaped outlet opening of the gas bag module, wherein the gas bag module cover having a central hole covered by a stationary cap and an edge defining the central hole, a holding connection provided between the edge and the stationary cap; wherein the edge extending obliquely from an underside of the module cover toward an underside of the cap, the edge defining a chamfer extending along an outer perimeter of the cap. These structures in combination with other structures as recited in claim 12 define over prior art of record.

With respect to independent claim 13, neither WO 97/34783 nor other art of record discloses or suggest a gas bag restraining device particularly comprising: a module cover for closing a ring shaped outlet opening of the gas bag module, wherein the gas bag module cover having a central hole covered by a stationary cap and an edge defining the central hole, a holding connection provided between the edge and the stationary cap; wherein the edge being clamp between an underside of the cap and a part of the gas bag module, and the cap being immediately attached to the part. These structures in combination with other structures as recited in claim 13 define over prior art of record.

With respect to independent claim 15, neither WO 97/34783 nor other art of record discloses or suggest a gas bag restraining device particularly comprising: a module cover for closing a ring shaped outlet opening of the gas bag module, wherein the gas bag module cover having a central hole covered by a stationary cap and an edge defining the central hole, a holding connection provided between the edge and the stationary cap; wherein the cap forming a tongue and groove joint with the ring-shaped edge, the joint extending around a perimeter of the cap. These structures in combination with other structures as recited in claim 15 define over prior art of record.

With respect to independent claim 16, neither WO 97/34783 nor other art of record discloses or suggest a gas bag restraining device particularly comprising: a module cover for closing a ring shaped outlet opening of the gas bag module, wherein the gas bag module cover having a central hole covered by a stationary cap and an edge defining the central hole, a holding connection provided between the edge and the

stationary cap; wherein the edge having a projection extending toward an underside of the cap, wherein the underside of the cap having a ring shaped recess for receiving the projection, the recess extending along a perimeter of the cap . These structures in combination with other structures as recited in claim 16 define over prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

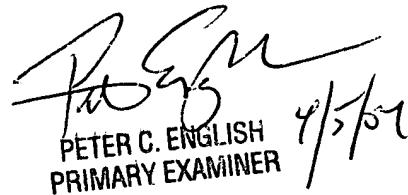
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan C To whose telephone number is (703) 306-5951. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (703) 308-2089. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TT<sup>o</sup>  
April 2, 2004

  
PETER C. ENGLISH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
4/5/04